

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1020

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for the occurrence of hepatitis C in certain veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 1999

Mr. SNYDER (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FILNER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. MINGE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. WELDON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service connection for the occurrence of hepatitis C in certain veterans.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Hepatitis  
5   C Benefits Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR HEP-**  
2 **ATITIS C FOR VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of  
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1119. Presumption of service connection for hepa-**  
7 **titis C**

8 “For purposes of section 1110 of this title, and sub-  
9 ject to section 1113 of this title, hepatitis C becoming  
10 manifest in a veteran shall be considered to have been in-  
11 curred in or aggravated by active military, naval, or air  
12 service, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence  
13 of such illness during the period of such service if it is  
14 shown that during such service the veteran experienced  
15 one or more of the following:

16 “(1) Transfusion of blood or blood products be-  
17 fore December 31, 1992.

18 “(2) Blood exposure on or through skin or mu-  
19 cous membrane.

20 “(3) Hemodialysis.

21 “(4) Tattoo or body piercing or acupuncture.

22 “(5) Unexplained liver disease.

23 “(6) Unexplained abnormal liver function tests.

24 “(7) Working in a health care occupation.”.

25 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
26 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting

- 1 after the item relating to section 1118 the following new
- 2 item:

“1119. Presumption of service connection for hepatitis C.”.

